

K1440 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 14/5/2013

Conservation Finished: 14/5/2013

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 10.9mm (W)10.1 mm (T)1.5 mm

Weight before: 0.47g

Weight after: 0.47g

Catalogue number: 447

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Fragment of a gold strip decorated with linear strands of beaded wire, as well as S shaped scrolls made of fine beaded wire. The beading on the wires is extremely regular and the spirals forming the scrolls quite tight and virtually identical in size between them (see photomicrographs). A central line of beaded wire divides the object into two horizontal fields, each containing scrolls. Two incomplete, empty rivet holes survive at one end. A narrow flange, or extension of the backing plate, protrudes beyond the beaded wire on the top and lower borders. The back is plain, but there is a central linear depression where the beaded wire was applied at the front. The back has also suffered major localised red/black discolouration.

Associated Objects:

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Minor deposits of granular soil on the surface. The object is mostly exposed, showing it is broken at both ends. A single beaded wire strand forming one of the outer borders is hanging over the base plate and has been folded back. The wire at both ends can be considered precarious. The object has suffered much superficial discolouration. Some of the scrolls are particularly black. The causes of this type of darkening are currently unexplained. Potential traces of solder are visible within the tight spiral pattern of the filigree scrolls (see photomicrographs).

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick.

The granular soil on the front & back was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

The paper K number was adhered to the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

20/05/2015- K.Fuller

Reboxed with K951

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings: see pre-conservation condition.

Key Features:

- Strip with S shaped, tight scrolls
- Two rivet holes
- Red/dark discoloration

Samples:

None taken (insufficient soil)